Ute-Ulay Mining Complex, Colorado  June 3 - 12, 2016

Project partner: Hinsdale County and Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s Most Endangered Places Program

Scope of Work:

HistoriCorps returned to the Ute-Ulay Mining Complex for a second year of emergency stabilization work. Volunteers in both sessions focused on the stabilization of the Long Building and the Winch House Lean-to. Work included:

- Long Building
  - Installed temporary bracing
  - Installed new collar ties

- Winch House Lean-to
  - Stabilized the foundation
  - Installed metal siding on the sides and roof
History:

The Ute and Ulay Mining Complex is one of Colorado's 2015 Endangered Places, a program of Colorado Preservation Inc (CPI). This synopsis is courtesy of CPI. The Ute and Ulay mines were some of the best known silver and lead producers in Colorado. Between 1874 and 1903, the mines were responsible for $12 million worth of minerals which today would amount to more than $280 million in value. Located in Hinsdale County, the mines were largely responsible for the development of Lake City. The booming mining-based economy attracted many people to the area and the mines continued to produce on and off through the 1980s.

LKA Gold donated the ten-acre site to Hinsdale County. The site consists of 18 structures including residential cabins, a blacksmith shop, a boarding house, a red-cedar water tank, and assayer's office. This project was a rare opportunity for volunteers to see, first hand, mining structures that haven't been altered or otherwise interpreted for the general public.

The Ute and Ulay mines, mill complex and surrounding Henson town site are rare examples of a more complete mining community with large amount of historic fabric remaining. The site's location along the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway increases its opportunity for education and as a heritage tourism destination.

Project Location:

The Ute-Ulay mine is located 4 miles west of Lake City, Colorado, nestled in the mountains and edged by the San Juan National Forest.

Nearest Town:

Lake City, Colorado

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